



**West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition
Meeting Report
Tuesday, September 14, 2010**

Opening This meeting of the West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition was called to order at 6:40 pm by Amy Wolfe. The meeting was held at the Clearfield County Conservation District, Clearfield, PA.

Present The meeting was attended by: Mark Killar, Nancy Potts, Brian Hoppe, Terry O'Connor, Tom Clark, Ken Undercoffer, Art Rose, Shirley Sholtis, Scott Koser, Carl Undercoffer, Kelly Williams, Rebecca Holler, and Amy Wolfe

Information and Discussion Items

Item 1: Introductions: All meeting participants identified themselves and the group they were representing.

Item 2: The minutes of the July 13, 2010 meeting were distributed. It was noted the date on the minutes was incorrect and would be changed.

Item 3: Amy Wolfe, Trout Unlimited, gave a presentation to the group about Federal Good Samaritan protection for abandoned mine remediation projects. She explained the current protection through PA's Environmental Good Samaritan Act, but that this does not provide protection under the federal Clean Water Act. She stated that the language of the Clean Water Act broadly implies that each treatment system should be meeting the standards of the Clean Water Act, which would require NPDES permits. Currently PA DEP and the EPA do not require these permits for AMD treatment projects. A district court decision in WV, which ruled that NPDES permits are required for AMD treatment projects (initial emphasis in lawsuit on bond forfeiture projects), is presently awaiting the outcome from the 4th circuit appeals court. No such lawsuits have been filed in PA, however the outcome of this lawsuit may affect the work we do here in PA. Two potential solutions are federal Good Samaritan legislation to limit the liability (under the CWA) for volunteer groups engaged in AMD remediation and a possible "general" NPDES permit specifically for AMD remediation projects. Anyone with question about what their group's liability is, or how to help the passage of federal protection should contact Amy at awolfe@tu.org.

Item 4: Amy Wolfe, then led a discussion of the Growing Greener funds and their distribution for this year. While most groups are not eligible for Growing Greener funds, many are eligible for federal 319 funds. Groups are reminded to consider the PennVest Funding which was discussed at the last meeting. If groups would like more information about that funding source they should contact Amy Wolfe at awolfe@tu.org.

Item 5: Amy Wolfe informed the group that the newest round of Technical Assistance Grants is open. The grants offer technical assistance to groups in many aspects of AMD remediation. Interested groups should download the short application form online at <http://www.wbsrc.org/tutag.html> and mail it to Trout Unlimited.

Item 6: Rebecca Holler, OSM/VISTA discussed her out reach efforts. In the next months she will be attending watershed meetings to see where assistance maybe needed. If a group would like her to attend a meeting or knows of another group that could benefit from assistance contact Rebecca at rholler@tu.org.

Item 7: "Round-the-table" watershed updates were provided by those present on behalf of the organization(s) that they represent.

The next meeting will be held on December 14th, 2010. The location will be announced closer the meeting time.